Russo-Japanese War
- After Japan’s victory in the war Korea became a Japanese Protectorate
- It transferred all foreign relations to Japan, a Japanese resident general (Tokan) was to be stationed in Seoul with direct access to the Korean Emperor
- The Tokan’s authority was to manage diplomatic affairs, but soon most aspects of the country’s administration was under his control.

- Beginning with the Americans the international community closed their legations in Seoul
- In 1906 Ito Hirobumi became the resident general of Korea
- In 1907 King Kojong sought help from the USA and the Second Hague Peace Conference asking for assistance to reimpose Korean Sovereignty
- Kojong was forced to abdicate in favour of his mentally challenged son Sunjong
- The resident generals influence increased his approval was needed for all laws, regulations and appointments and the removal of high officials
- Censorship was increased, several newspapers were closed and in 1907 the resident general ordered that the Korean army be disbanded
- This led to armed resistance against Japan ‘Righteous Armies’ were formed throughout the countryside - it is estimated that 50 000 Koreans participated with 10000 being killed - by 1910 the guerillas had been defeated

The Annexation of Korea
- At some point Japan decided to annex Korea
- There was no opposition from Britain, the USA or Russia
- In 1909 Ito resigned as Residen General and was assassinated in Harbin Manchuria by An Chung-gun
- On August 29 1910 the Japanese government issued an edict on behalf of the Meiji Emperor and Sunjong of Korea announcing the merger of the two countries
- The Korean kingdom established in the 7th century and the Chosen dynasty which has ruled since 1392 came to an end.